


July 15, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Frank Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Site Inspection, M/023/003, Brush Wellman's Topaz Property

On July 12, 1988 Holland Shepherd and Frank Filas of the Division and Jerry Mansfield of State Lands toured the above referenced mine site with Ken Poulson of Brush Wellman and Bob Baer of JBR. We toured the Rainbow, Blue Chalk, Roadside, Sigma Emma, and Taurus groups during this visit.

The Taurus waste dumps are composed entirely of rhyolite and were ripped and broadcast seeded with rabbit brush in the fall of 1987. There does not appear to be much vegetation growing at this time. It is recommended that this area be checked again by the Division in 1989.

The Sigma Emma and Roadside dumps are covered with Tuff and support only limited vegetation from natural invasion. The Division has agreed to approve a revegetation variance for the tuff dumps. Brush Wellman proposes to rip these areas, but not apply any seed. The roadside pit has been partially backfilled and this backfilling will continue during future stripping operations.

The Blue Chalk group is currently being mined. Brush employs only eight full time employees to mine the ore. Stripping of the overburden is accomplished by a private contractor on four to five year intervals. After stripping, the ore body is drilled on tight centers and survey stations are established. The ore is then mined with a dozer and scrapers.

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In conjunction with this visit, we discussed reclamation bonding. Brush agreed to decrease operator efficiency factors and include supervision costs in the cost estimate. They will also explore the possibility of posting a surety to cover a 10 to 20 year period. A tentative meeting was scheduled for August 2, 1988 at the Division to review the revised estimate.

jb
cc: L. Braxton
W. Hedberg
H. Shepherd
J. Mansfield, State Lands
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